



Welcome to the Clark County Community Development e-News. We send this publication out once a month to announce the latest in what's happening. We will attempt to cover a broad range of topics that we hope will be of interest to you. We need your input! We welcome your comments about our news bulletin; and if you have topics you would like us to cover and we haven't, we'll do our best to accommodate you!★

## Salmon Creek area traffic affecting development

Ask anyone who lives in or travels through the Salmon Creek area of Clark County: traffic is a challenge at best and a nightmare at worst.

Both the county and the state face many challenges in meeting transportation demands placed on this area by rapid population growth. Since late January 2005, these challenges increased enough in scope to directly affect approval of development applications by the county. [To read the rest of the article and the latest news release, click here.](#) ★

## Critical Areas

The Growth Management Act (GMA) requires that jurisdictions designate critical areas and to develop ordinances to protect them. Critical areas are defined by GMA as wetlands, habitat, flood hazard areas, geologic hazard areas and critical aquifer recharge

areas (RCW 36.70A.030(5)). The GMA also requires that jurisdictions periodically update their critical areas ordinances, and further that such updates include best available information as to the location and function of critical areas (RCW 36.70A.172).

On April 26, 2005, via ordinance no. 2005-04-015, the Board of Clark County Commissioners (BOCC) adopted updates of the Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas, Flood Hazard Areas, Geologic Hazards and Habitat Conservation chapters of the Clark County Unified Development Code.

In June, the BOCC appointed a wetlands ordinance work group to update Chapter 40.450, Wetland Protection. The work group, led by Commissioner Stuart, meets every other week in an effort to develop draft revisions by the end of September. Planning Commission hearings are tentatively scheduled to begin in late October with BOCC action on the ordinance by the end of the year. ★

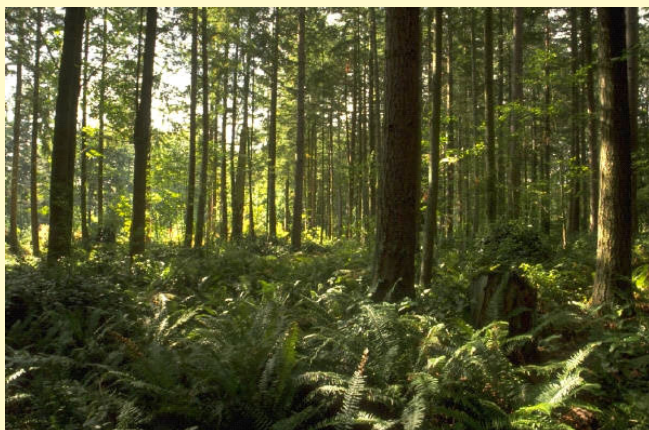
## Permit Services?

Some say that the only thing constant is change. So, in the true spirit of embracing change, it is once again time to update everyone regarding the changes in the Customer Service Division. For starters, on July 18, our name will be changing to the **Permit Services Division** and the Community Development Specialists will become Permit Technicians. The new name provides a natural association for people who are unfamiliar with our department, how we are organized, and what services we provide.

## July 2005

### Inside:

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- ★ June Phone Stats
- ★ ComDev in the news



Another change coming in the next few weeks will be the ability for customers to mail in certain applications. Ten different applications, without complex fee structures or submittal requirements, will be accepted.

Proposals for a web-based customer queuing system are being reviewed. The new system will allow better tracking of customer time spent waiting and being served, and which applications take the longest to set up. The system data will determine our busiest times and enable us to plan accordingly.

With these changes, our ability to serve customers will continue to improve. ★

### Fourth of July '05

For many of us in the Fire Marshal's Office, the Fourth of July weekend was spent contacting scores of people and responding to numerous fireworks complaints called in to the Clark Regional Emergency Services Agency (CRESA).

Fireworks were legal to possess and use in Clark County from June 28 through July 5. To be sure everyone had plenty of fireworks to celebrate America's birthday, the Fire Marshal's Office issued permits for 35 retail stands in unincorporated Clark County and six in the cities of Ridgefield, La Center, Yacolt, and Battle Ground. The city of Vancouver permitted an additional 20 stands.

Before the sale of fireworks began, there was significant publicity on the types of devices allowed and the dates and hours they could legally be used.

Flyers containing legal and safety information were distributed to each retail stand with the request that they be given to the public with each sale.

During the week of sales, between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 2:00 a.m., as many as four deputy fire marshals and/or fire inspectors patrolled the county to ensure that illegal fireworks devices were not used and that the legal hours for use were upheld.

The result? In Clark County, very few citations were issued and only one juvenile caught making explosive devices was referred to the Prosecuting Attorney's Office. Citizens were well informed and did a much better job at complying with the laws than in years past. This was a good season — one on which we hope to build next year. ★

### Staff Accomplishments

**Rich Walters**, **Kami Simpson**, and **Michelle Wall** recently obtained their 2003 Uniform Plumbing Code certification!



Rich Walters

**John Scukanec** has obtained his International Code Council Zoning Inspector certification! ★



Kami Simpson



Michelle Wall



### Quick Clicks

- Comprehensive Plan Update
- Data Library
- Team Focus
- Department Calendar

### Divisions

- Animal Control
- Building Division
- Code Enforcement
- Development Services
- Engineering Services
- Fire Marshal's Office
- Long Range Planning
- Permit Services

[www.clark.wa.gov/commdev](http://www.clark.wa.gov/commdev)

## How are we doing?

Promptness of initial greeting	B+
Time spent waiting for service	B+
Courtesy/personal attention	A -
Knowledge level of employees	B+
Efficiency of service provided	A -
Usability of information	B+
Overall Service	B+

Grades based on Customer Service Evaluation forms received in 2005★

## June Phone Stats

Percentage of calls directly answered or returned within 24 hours:

Administration	99%
Animal Control	98%
Building	99%
Code Enforcement	97%
Development Services	99%
Engineering Services	97%
Fire Marshal's Office	98%
Long Range Planning	99%
Permit Services	89%
<b>Department Total</b>	<b>96%★</b>

## ComDev in the News

**Rural folks may get some peace, quiet** The Columbian 7-14-05

<http://www.columbian.com/news/localNews/07142005news2530.cfm>

**Storedahl mine expansion denied** The Columbian 7-13-05

<http://www.columbian.com/news/localNews/07132005news2500.cfm>

**Years of memory up in smoke** The Columbian 7-13-05

<http://www.columbian.com/news/localNews/07132005news2489.cfm>

**Clark County rejects more gravel mining near Lewis River**

The Oregonian 7-13-05

[http://www.oregonlive.com/metronorth/oregonian/index.ssf?base/metro\\_north\\_news/1121249212227661.xml&coll=7](http://www.oregonlive.com/metronorth/oregonian/index.ssf?base/metro_north_news/1121249212227661.xml&coll=7)

**Board urged to slow growth** The Columbian 7-2-05

<http://www.columbian.com/news/localNews/07022005news2227.cfm>

**Ridgefield No. 1 in growth** The Columbian 6-29-05

<http://www.columbian.com/news/localNews/06292005news2071.cfm>

**Cities hope tribe will help fund growth** The Columbian 6-29-05

<http://www.columbian.com/news/localNews/06292005news2063.cfm>

**Newcomers swell town** The Oregonian 6-29-05

[http://www.oregonlive.com/metronorth/oregonian/index.ssf?base/metro\\_north\\_news/112003983081460.xml&coll=7](http://www.oregonlive.com/metronorth/oregonian/index.ssf?base/metro_north_news/112003983081460.xml&coll=7) ★

## What's On TV Tonight?

There is a lot on CVTV (channel 23) about Community Development. For example, you can watch the animal control, land use, and code enforcement hearings, as well as the county's Planning Commission. To see the complete schedule click here: [www.cvttv.org](http://www.cvttv.org) ★

## Expanding our audience

Do you know others who would benefit from this information? Any list serves that would be appropriate for us to post this on? On the other hand, if you would like to be taken off our e-mailing list, just let us know. Contact Désirée at [desiree.demoney@clark.wa.gov](mailto:desiree.demoney@clark.wa.gov) ★